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# Record

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## TV religion portrayals get mixed reviews

WASHINGTON (BP) — Religion continues to get the short end of the stick from television network news, but its portrayal in prime-time entertainment shows made a dramatic leap upward last year, according to recently announced studies.

While coverage of religion was below 2% of all news on network television in 1996, the number of depictions of spirituality on prime-time TV increased to 436 last year from 287 in 1995, the Media Research Center (MRC) and an affiliate reported.

The upswing in portrayals of religion on prime-time TV is tempered by other findings:

- ◆ There was only one depiction of religion for every four hours of programming.

- ◆ Though religion in general was portrayed positively by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, the laity is depicted negatively four times as often as it is positively.

Meanwhile, a recent survey commissioned by "TV Guide" showed 56% of adults polled believe religion does not receive enough attention on prime-time TV and only one-third of those surveyed think prime time accurately portrays the characters' spiritual sides.

At a news conference March 25, the Parents Television Council (PTC), an MRC Los Angeles affiliate, released its findings on prime time's increased attention to religion.

"The good news is that shows like 'Touched by an Angel,' 'Promised Land,' '7th Heaven' and others depict religion and faith positively," actor Dean Jones said.

"I wish more shows would follow their lead. The bad news ... is that nearly seven out of 10 laypeople — people like me —

and third, respectively. ABC, Warner Brothers, and UPN trailed far behind.

CBS and ABC easily led the



are portrayed negatively on prime-time television," said Jones, a professing Christian and PTC advisory board member.

Aided by such shows as "Touched by an Angel" and "Promised Land," CBS easily outdistanced the other five networks studied with 172 depictions of religion.

NBC, with 87 portrayals, and Fox, with 83, were second

others in the positive-to-negative ratio of overall religious depictions. Fox was the only network with more negative than positive treatments.

In recommending the networks present more "faith friendly" shows, PTC said it was not referring to series "featuring angels, or even clergy."

"Rather, we would merely like to see a small-screen depiction that indicates religion's importance to everyday Americans."

"Whether it's a child praying before bedtime or a family attending a service, religion is an indispensable part of life for tens of millions, and prime time's fully recognizing this would be most welcome."

The "TV Guide" survey, reported in its March 29 issue, also found:

- ◆ 68% of adults are eager to see more prime-time spirituality.

- ◆ 82% would like more references to moral issues.

- ◆ 61% believe TV has become less spiritual and less moral in the last five years.

When asked to name the most spiritually rich prime-time show, 66% chose "Touched by an Angel," the magazine reported. ABC's "Family Matters" was a distant second at 6%.

"TV Guide" also reported at least four new shows concerning angels, spirits, or ministers are being prepared for next season.

The trend in coverage of religion by television news is not as encouraging.

On the evening news, religion stories increased from 249 to 269 in 1996, according to MRC, but that was only 1.5% of some 18,000 stories telecast on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, and PBS.

ABC, the lone network with a religion reporter, had the most religion stories on the evening news with 76.

MRC has recommended the networks hire religion reporters, present religious leaders' social positions in a respectful manner, and report church controversies fairly.

"Virtually no recommendation has been taken seriously," said Bozell.

### Hunger gifts on the rise

After years of decline, gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund grew by over five percent in 1996. Hunger giving rose from nearly \$6.7 million in 1995 to over \$7.1 million in 1996.

The increased rate of giving appears to be setting a new trendline upward, said Donoso Escobar, director of church and community ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB). He noted HMB hunger receipts are up 45% for the first two months of 1997 compared to the same months in 1996.

"The additional receipts enabled us to respond swiftly to emergency hunger situations," Escobar said, explaining many of the funds went to aid flood victims in California, Kentucky, and Indiana. HMB reported over 8,600 conversions last year directly related to HMB-directed hunger ministries.

Gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund are distributed between HMB and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) according to long-established agreements within the convention: 20% to HMB and 80% to FMB, unless the donor designates otherwise.

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Students commissioned

3

HMB notifies employees

4

Baehr to keynote MBIB

5

Baptist college news

6

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

By a vote of 52 - 15, Larry L. Lewis is elected president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during a special called meeting April 10. Lewis, former home missionary and church planter, is president of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo.

#### 20 years ago

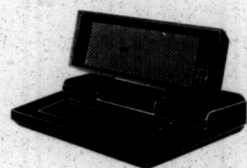
Perkinston Church, Perkinston, makes the final payment on the debt for their new sanctuary on March 10. The sanctuary, valued at more than \$100,000, was dedicated on May 11, 1975 and was completely paid for in less than two years. Skip Barnett is pastor.

#### 50 years ago

The Jackson Baptist Book Store moves to the new location at 113 North President Street. Churches are asked to anticipate needs, as no mail orders can be filled during the week of the move. The grand opening of the new bookstore location is scheduled for April 29.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Excuses, excuses, excuses

**T**here was a time in the not-to-distant past when moral absolutes were just that — absolute — and ethics weren't situational.

For many of us, grandparents and great-grandparents come to mind. They ran their whole lives and economies on handshakes and promises.

A promise to produce a certain crop at a certain time for an agreed-upon price was sealed with a handshake. Written contracts in a courthouse file weren't necessary for a person to live up to his/her word.

People in that day, like our present day, sometimes found themselves in untenable situations. Yet they didn't make excuses, blame others, or indulge in situational ethics. They accepted their circumstances, cinched their belts, and went on with their lives as best they could under the Lord's leadership.

Our modern society often teaches the opposite lesson. A person's response to a challenging situation is measured not by moral absolutes but by situational considerations.

Have an unplanned pregnancy? If mom and dad are unmarried or too young or too poor or just "not ready," their situation must be taken into account when deciding on the worth of the child.

Can't control your drinking? It must be your parent's fault. They were abusive and you drink to forget the abuse you can't actually recall.

Confused about your sexuality? That's a perfectly normal feeling; just do whatever

comes natural.

Misuse office equipment for personal gain? Simply protest that there is no "controlling legal authority" for what you did.

Passing the buck and speaking in half-truths is nothing new, but it seems our culture has an ever-increasing aversion to an individual accepting responsibility for his/her actions.

We see this behavior in our schools, courts, politics, and even some of our churches. Everything is relative; nothing is absolute.

Living that way, however, is like drifting through life in a boat without an anchor. Having no anchor means it's easy to accidentally float out of safe harbor, and when the inevitable storms of life come along there is nothing to hold us upright and in position against the crashing waves.

Pilate was so confused about this point that even Jesus could not convince him of the truth (John 18:37-38).

Christians are heirs to a higher calling — one in which there are plenty of moral absolutes and a paucity of situational ethics. Furthermore, we are to model moral behavior to the lost world all around us.

How does a Christian determine what is morally and ethically proper?

In Psalm 119:160 (NIV) David wrote of God: "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal."

The Apostle Paul described how God wants all people to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4), and suggested the best place to find it (1 Tim. 3:15).

In the Christian life there have always been moral absolutes, not excuses. In the secular world, there have always been

"THE WAY I SEE IT  
IF I START TO CHURCH  
I'LL NEED AN EXCUSE  
TO MISS. THIS WAY,  
I DON'T NEED ANY."



excuses, not moral absolutes.

Christians deal in moral absolutes because no matter our personal background or flawed lifestyle up to the time of our salvation, Christ deals with each of us on a personal level.

He doesn't accept excuses, but he does offer salvation that makes us new all over again (2 Cor. 5:17).

Will your life be centered around excuses, or Christ? The choice is up to you.

**I**n the summer of 1994, I along with my associate BSU director was busy making plans for a new school year.

Preview days are always fun because you see the excitement and anticipation in the eyes of the new students — especially freshmen.

Stephen Byrd arrived on our campus with more enthusiasm for college life and BSU than any student I had in a long time.

He got involved from the beginning and talked early about how excited he was to be to be a part of what God was going to do through our BSU.

Stephen loved intramural sports, especially flag football. It was on the intramural football field that our friendship was born and this story begins.

On a beautiful fall evening, I was about one of my pastimes as BSU Director at USM — watching intramural football and meeting new students.

Students often say I have the spiritual gift of harassment. I was standing on the sideline when I looked up as Stephen intercepted a pass and headed down the field.

It didn't take long for a guy half Stephen's size to catch him and grab his flag. As I walked past him, I commented about how "fast" he was.

Little did I know that his lack of speed was caused by an intense pain in his abdomen. We joked, I harassed, and the incident passed.

A couple of days later, a student came in and asked me if I



## GUEST OPINION:

### Overcoming obstacles

By Lloyd Lunceford, BSU Director,  
University of Southern Mississippi

heard Stephen was in the hospital facing possible surgery.

At the suggestion of the campus physician, Stephen had gone home to Kenner, La. to have some tests done to explore the abdominal pain he had been suffering for several months.

A few days later, the doctors removed a mass from his colon.

I'll never forget my first visit to the hospital. As I walked up to his hospital bed that afternoon, Stephen looked up at me and said, "Bro, they say I've got cancer."

Wow! What do you say? Another one of my "spiritual" gifts is humor.

I looked at him and said, "Man, always remember, doctors only practice medicine, they never get it right."

What do you do when you are a college freshman — your whole life is in front of you and you've got your own plans for the future — and then the plan changes?

I can't tell you that it has been a perfect road. God has given me the gift of sharing my life with someone who has

become one of my best friends.

That fall Stephen began a 12-month protocol of chemotherapy and was able to stay in school. Each of the chemo sessions was an experience.

Stephen and I would enter a very somber waiting room and immediately decide it was our role to change the atmosphere of the place.

I will always remember the strength that would come as we talked about things that would make us laugh. He soon became a great inspiration to the nurse who worked with him.

One of the greatest obstacles Stephen had to overcome was his plan to be a summer missionary.

He felt from the very day he hit the campus that his freshman year was to culminate by serving as a BSU summer missionary.

However, the doctors said "no." This was not an easy word to accept.

Stephen really began to seek for an answer from God's Word on why this desire that seemed so much in the will of God would not work. God gave him

a special verse in Jeremiah 9:23: "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you."

Stephen began to allow God to show him God's plans instead of relying on his own wants.

God opened the door for him to serve as a teaching faculty member at the state youth conferences in Mississippi. This allowed him to fulfill a ministry goal and continue his medical treatment.

Through all of the struggles, Stephen never lost that desire to be a BSU summer missionary.

His sophomore year brought an end to the chemo and his health improved. In January of 1996 he was able to get medical clearance to apply for summer missions.

One of my proudest moments as a BSU director came at our state Leadership Training Conference when Stephen stood to share his story and the plan God had worked out.

Stephen was appointed that weekend to serve as a youth worker in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Though the future may seem to be uncertain, this college freshman has taught us a great deal about seeking God and his perfect plan.

As we trust God with our whole heart, we continue to find that he is faithful and he gives us the desires of our heart.

Reprinted by permission of the author from an article in the February 1997 issue of Student Magazine. Edited for space.



# BSU summer missionaries mark record

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

A record 111 students were commissioned as Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionaries at the annual Leadership Training Conference (LTC) April 4-6 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian — the 50th anniversary of BSU summer missions in Mississippi.

The students, representing 20 college campuses across the state, will serve eight to ten weeks in 21 states and six foreign countries. The approximate \$150,000 budget to send these volunteers to the mission field has been raised by students of the various BSUs.

Over the 50 years of student summer missions, 1,875 students have served and \$1.8 million has been raised by students to send their peers to the mission field, according to Weaver McCracken, associate director of student work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBCB).

"In terms of record attendance; the largest number of

summer missionaries appointed in the 50-year history of the program; and the overall spirit of the weekend, this was one of our finest LTCs in recent years," said Jerry Merriman, MBCB director of student work.

Merriman's daughter Joy, a student at Mississippi College in Clinton, was among the 111 students commissioned. She will serve in Nevada.

The LTC offers a weekend of inspiration and training for BSU student leadership. Leadership classes and other special interest seminars are offered.

In addition to the summer missionaries, all elected state BSU leaders were commissioned during the Saturday evening program.

Bill Causey, MBCB executive director/treasurer and one of the first student summer missionaries from Mississippi, said to the capacity crowd,

"Those of you who go away, and those of you who remain at home and pray, will be singularly blessed as Mississippi Southern Baptist student missionaries carry the Gospel to the world."



**MISSIONARY CHARGE** — Frank Porter, BSU director at Northwest Community College in Senatobia, challenged the summer missionaries to do like their momma says and "eat all the food put before you," while on the mission field, and to also "be faithful in all you do." (Photos by Carl M. White)

He challenged the student missionaries, their peers, and parents to see the world through eyes of faith, meaning, "to bet your life that who Jesus is, what he said, and what he did is all you need to live the kind of life God called you to live."

Causey also recognized the BSU directors, "who so directly impact student's lives," as well as Merriman and McCracken, for their excellent leadership.

"This is truly what our work in BSU in Mississippi is about:



**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

**Record**

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

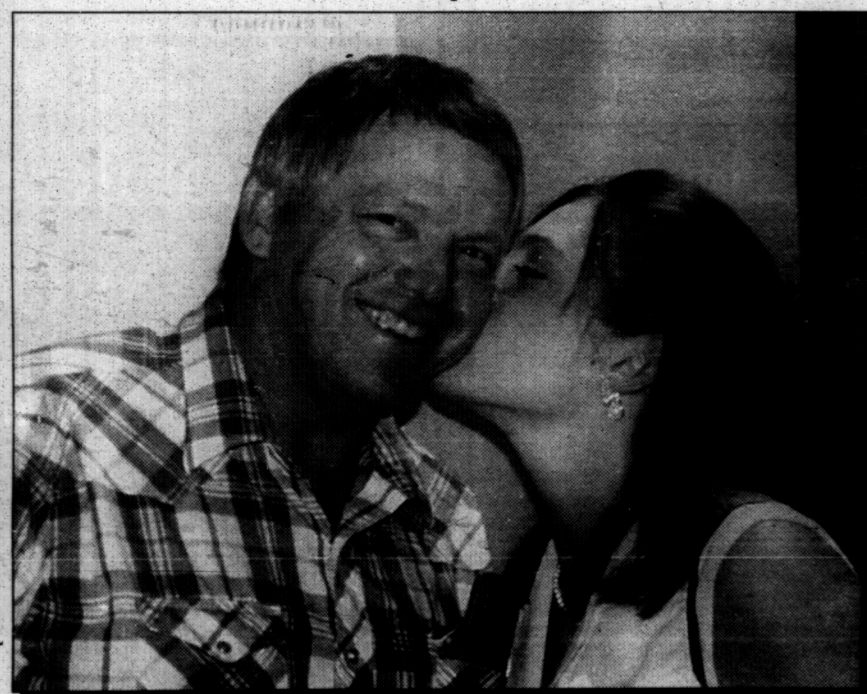
APRIL 10, 1997

VOL. 121

No. 10



**ANOTHER RECORD FALLS** — A record 111 Mississippi BSU student summer missionaries fill the stage of Kelly Auditorium at Gulfshore Assembly, cheered on by an enthusiastic, over-capacity crowd.



**LOVE 'YA, DAD** — Mississippi College student Jennifer Brown of Long Beach, who will be going to Hawaii as a BSU summer missionary, kisses her father Gayle Brown on the cheek after the April 5 commissioning service at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

## State CP takes dip in March

Cooperative Program (CP) gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches totaled \$1,764,558 in March, bringing 1997 total gifts to \$6,609,380, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

Although the March total is \$85,712 less than that given in March 1996, the 1997 total is up by \$364,010, or 5.83%.

Compared to the 1997 CP budget of \$24,145,086, which was established by messengers to the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Convention, gifts are \$573,108, or 9.49%, ahead of the pro rata amount. That amount is figured by taking the total annual budget, dividing by 12 (months in the year), and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

CP funds such events as the state handbell festival at Mississippi College in Clinton on April 25-26, and the April 29 Bible Drill selection tournament at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

## SBC CP declines for month

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)** — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for March declined eight percent compared to the previous year's month, but fiscal year-to-date gifts are more than \$3.5 million ahead of the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

March CP gifts totaled \$11,599,359 compared to March 1996 of \$12,652,229, a decline of \$1,052,870 or 8.32%.

Designated gifts for March 1997 totaled \$17,263,757 compared to March 1996 of \$17,507,489, a decrease of \$243,731 or 1.39%. For the SBC's CP Allocation Budget for 1996-97, the March total was \$488,432 below the monthly required total of \$12,087,791, or 4.04%.

The year-to-date figure, however, shows the six-month total of \$76,519,392 is \$3,992,642 over the required budget figure, or a 5.51% increase.



## Lad/Crusader Day set for May 3

Lad/Crusader Day 1997 will be held May 3 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. Speakers will be James Young, Southern Baptist missionary to Bangladesh, and Steve Evans, Southern Baptist missionary to Mozambique.

Activities will include RA Racers, mission projects, chapter banner, speak-out, camp craft, and show-and-tell competitions.

Cost is \$3 per person. Groups desiring overnight camping, at an additional cost of \$1 per person, must make reservations with Central Hills Retreat by April 17. Participants should bring sack lunches, as no meals will be provided.

For more information and to make reservations, contact Central Hills Retreat manager Dan West, P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723. Telephone: (601) 289-9730.

# Chief wants MBHS prepared for changes

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Final in a series

Managed care is coming to Mississippi, and Kurt Metzner wants to be prepared.

The 55-year-old president and chief executive officer of Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (MBHS), the parent company for Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) and other healthcare services affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, believes Mississippians must be positioned for the inevitable implementation of managed care in the state.

"We must get ready for managed care; that's the future direction of healthcare as I perceive it. Many areas of the country were not prepared for managed care when it arrived, so the medical community in these areas didn't have a chance to participate in setting up the system.

"MBHS has a unique opportunity to design its move into the future. That opportunity was missed in other areas of the country because the window closes so quickly for those who are not prepared," he said.

Metzner wants to ensure that MBHS is in a position to adapt to the coming changes.

"MBHS has to be on the front end of whatever changes come our way. We must have the right balance of services, and we must experiment with new ways of doing things.

"We must be innovative — a center of innovation, in fact," he pointed out.

Metzner said he has found the competition within the local medical community to be "polite and respectful," but he also stressed that he intends to be aggressive in positioning MBHS for the future.

Building and maintaining a modern healthcare system means MBHS must concentrate on cost, quality, and access, Metzner explained.

"Purchasers of healthcare are looking for 'value' — an equation that combines cost and quality. That's a never-ending quest," he pointed out.

Metzner said access involves convenience to a broad mix of services, such as:

◆ conveniently-located physicians and clinics throughout the service area.

- ◆ outpatient.
- ◆ home health.
- ◆ behavioral health.

"However, it's more than a system integration; it's a 'continuum of care.' Many of the pieces are already in place, so the priority will be finding the missing links and establishing a timetable for implementation," he said.

Metzner is also intent on keeping MBHS focused on the spiritual aspect of Baptist-affiliated healthcare.

"I have studied the Covenant of Cooperation between MBHS and the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and I fully support it," he said.

The Covenant of Cooperation, approved by messengers to the 1996 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, spells out in detail the relationship between the convention and its agencies and institutions such as MBHS that are governed by separate boards of trustees.

"Extending the ministry of MBHS should be done in concert with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Baptist congregations of the state.

"That will give us the ability to be fully responsive to the community we serve," Metzner said.



Metzner

## HMB beginning employee transition to NAMB

ATLANTA (BP) — On behalf of the Implementation Task Force (ITF), officials of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Home Mission Board

(HMB) have begun offering support positions in the new North American Mission Board (NAMB) to current HMB employees.

Gary Jones, HMB vice president of services, said the process of hiring staff for the new agency and of terminating those employees who will not be offered positions began April 1 and will continue for two to three weeks.

The process, Jones told Baptist Press, was approved by the ITF, an SBC Executive Committee-appointed group which has guided the creation of the new agency as part of the denomination's restructuring.

The ITF has previously announced NAMB would have

350 employees, 165 fewer than the three present agencies being consolidated into NAMB.

A handful of separations has occurred at the two commissions, but due to its relative size, most terminations will occur at the HMB.

However, Jones said the exact number of positions offered and number of people separated will not be available until completion of the process.

He said 27 positions were offered and 15 HMB employees were severed the first day of the process.

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• Carlsbad Caverns • **\$1329**

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#### SCANDINAVIA

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• Norway • **\$2698**

#### FESTIVAL OF FALL COLORS

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• Eastern Canada  
• New York • **\$1098**

#### FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE

Oct. 4-11 • 9 days  
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• Canada Foliage  
• Montreal • **\$1398**

#### AUTUMN LEAVES

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• Tennessee River  
• Fall Colors Cruise  
• Broadway in Cumberland  
• Lost Sea Cruise • **\$250**

#### PANAMA CANAL CRUISE

Nov. 2-9 • 8 days  
• Panama Canal  
• South America  
• Caribbean • **\$545**

#### CHRISTMAS MAGIC

Nov. 28-Dec. 1 & Dec. 1-4  
• Biltmore Estate  
• Callaway Gardens  
• Dollywood • **\$294**

#### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Dec. 21-27 • 7 days  
• Country Inn of  
• Berkeley Springs  
• Christmas Festival  
• Tom Netherton Show  
• Jonesboro Christmas • **\$635**

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 10, 1997

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## 1997 Mississippi Baptist State Handbell Festivals

APRIL 18-19

GULFSHORE

AS

C. J. ...

**R. E. Thompson**

Minister of Music/

Handbell Specialist

Broadmoor Baptist Church

Memphis, Tenn.



APRIL 25-26

MISSISSIPPI COLISEUM

Clinician

**Hart Morris**

Minister of Music/Composer

and Specialist

Asbury United Methodist Church

Tulsa, Okla.

For further information, contact the Church Music Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, 601/968-3800, toll-free 800/748-1651.

## In Concert

April 27, 1997

FBC, Laurel

6 p.m.



Randy Turner  
Pastor

Jimmy Little  
Min. of Music

A music/drama ensemble of the Church Music Dept., MBCB

*"Sharing the Song of Jesus"*

# Start a Revolution

## Speakers:

Jerri Herring - Consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board

Jim Butler - pastor at the Trinity Baptist Church, Southaven, Miss.

Gerry Peak - minister of education at the Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tenn.

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department  
of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## Church Staff Retreat Conference Reservation Sunday School Department

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name and Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Time Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would be interested in an early bird golf tournament on Thursday morning.

## Church Staff Retreat April 24-25, 1997 Ramada Inn, Tupelo

The conference starts at 1 p.m. on Thursday and ends noon on Friday. There will be no cost for the conference but room prices at the Ramada Inn are \$44 for single occupancy and \$49 for double occupancy. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by calling 601-844-4111. To make reservations for the conference, please complete the conference reservation form and mail to the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



# MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE ON PREACHING AND WORSHIP

First Baptist Church, Greenwood

May 12-13, 1997

**PURPOSE:** To provide an in-depth workshop on Bible preaching, focusing on preparation and delivery - practical helps for weekly sermon preparation.

**FINANCES:** There is no charge for this conference.

**PERSONNEL:** **Waylon Bailey**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Covington, La.  
**Al Fasol**, professor of preaching/teaching, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth  
**Edgar Lee Wright**, pastor, Morgantown Baptist Church, Natchez  
**Jim Futral**, pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson  
**Frank Pollard**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson  
**Allen Harris**, minister of music, North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford  
**Dot Pray**, keyboard consultant, Church Music Department, MBCB

## Monday afternoon, May 12

1:00 Registration  
1:30 Praise Time  
1:40 Welcome and Prayer  
1:45 Overview and Introductions  
1:50 "There Will Always Be a Sermon"  
2:30 "How to Change the Church (Worship) Without Destroying It"  
3:10 Break  
3:40 "Maximize the Message: Interpreting the Text"  
4:20 Adjourn

## Monday evening, May 12

7:00 Workshops	
GROUP	SUBJECT
A	"Preaching as Story Telling"
B	"Interpreting Mark 9:33-37"
C	"The Ten Most Important Things I've Learned Since I Left the Seminary"
Single Staff Pastors	"Preaching to the Same Small Crowd"
Music Ministers	"Simple Lessons in Creative Worship"
8:15 Music Feature	
8:25 "Preparing the Preacher"	
9:00 Adjourn	

## Tuesday morning, May 13

8:30 Worship Time  
Sermon: "What Amos Knew About Worship"  
9:15 "Maximize the Message: Developing the Sermon"  
9:50 Break  
10:15 Music  
10:25 "So God Has Called You to Preach?!"  
10:55 Transition to Workshops

GROUP	SUBJECT
A	"Developing a Sermon from Mark 9:33-37"
B	"The Ten Most Important Things I've Learned Since I Left the Seminary"
C	"Making Special Days Special"
Single Staff Pastors	"Worship Ideas for the Smaller Church"

12:00 Adjourn for Lunch

## Tuesday afternoon, May 13

1:20 Workshops	
GROUP	SUBJECT
A	"The Ten Most Important Things I've Learned Since I Left the Seminary"
B	"Making Special Days Special"
C	"Evaluating Biblical Authority in a Sermon"
Single Staff Pastors	"Pastoral Survival/Effectiveness in the Smaller Church"
2:25 Transition to Auditorium	
2:30 Praise Time	
2:40 "Maximize the Message: Effective Sermon Delivery"	
3:10 "So You Have to Preach Every Week!"	
3:40 Adjourn	

### Registration Form

### Mississippi Conference on PREACHING AND WORSHIP

FBC, Greenwood • May 12-13, 1997

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Association Name \_\_\_\_\_

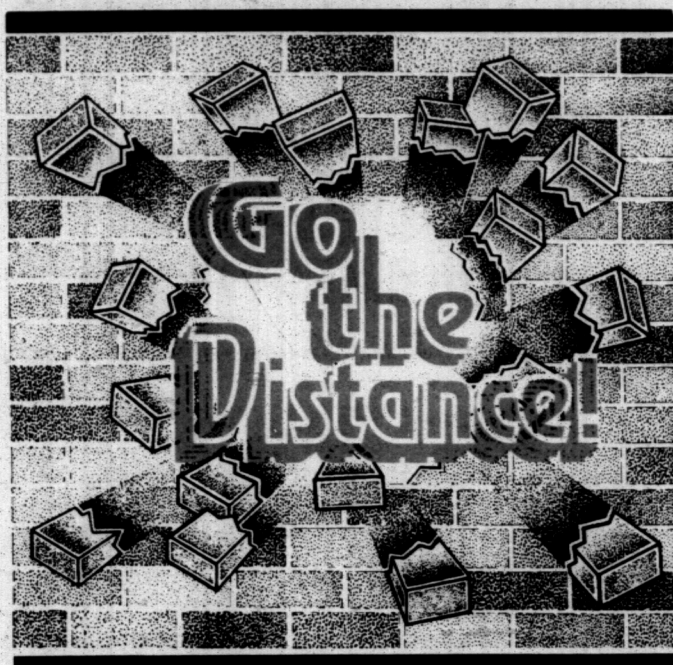
Mail to **Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department**, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Deadline is May 5, 1997, so that adequate materials can be provided.

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"



**S**uper Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Mississippi College is the host for Super Summer, July 21-25. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents to penetrate their culture for Christ in creative and effective ways. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.



## Super Summer '97

with Mike Curry

**July 21-25**

Mississippi College, Clinton

### Financial Requirements

The total cost for Super Summer during the registration period is \$140 per student and adult; amount includes food, housing in the school dormitory, materials, and T-shirt.

### Guidelines for all SS candidates

1. Demonstrates leadership qualities and is a growing Christian.
2. Faithful involvement in Worship, Sunday School, and Wednesday night youth activities.
3. Complete at least one level of a discipleship study (i.e. Survival Kit, DiscipleYouth, DiscipleNow...).
4. Memorized a minimum of 10 scripture verses relating to discipleship, evangelism, or a disciple study.
5. Share their personal testimony with the youth group.
6. Share the Gospel with at least one person this year.
7. Completed at least the 8th grade in 1997, but not yet in college.
8. Agree to attend all SS sessions.

Bill Causey  
Executive Director

Marcus Peagler  
Director

A Service of your Cooperative Program  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
Discipleship & Family Ministry Department

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

Gene Dobbs  
Executive Assistant

Wes Pegues  
Consultant

### Request For Registration Packet

**REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 15 AND ENDS JUNE 30 -**

All applications received after June 30 will be subject to a \$25 late fee. Applications received after July 7, may be refused. Space is limited.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:

**Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept., MBCB**  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

## M & M Day

This year WMU is sponsoring the first-ever celebration of missions just for preschoolers. On May 3 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.,

Mom and Me Day will be held at **Camp Garaywa** in Clinton.

This event will allow Mission Friends and their moms to experience missions through games, songs, crafts, activities and more!

The cost is only **\$3 per person** which includes all activities and lunch!

Please complete the registration form below and mail to WMU - M & M Day, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

### Registration Form - Mom & Me Day - Camp Garaywa

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed: \$3 x # of persons \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total)

**Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

## It's Time for Fun at Central Hills

### LAD & DAD WEEKEND CAMP

for campers in grades 1-3 and their dads

June 27-28	Total Cost:
July 11-12	\$26 per camper
	\$52 for a lad & dad

### R.A./CHALLENGERS RESIDENT CAMP

for campers in grades 4-12

June 16-20	Total Cost: \$95/camper
June 23-27	includes: registration fee,
July 7-11	crafts fee, snack fee,
July 14-18	lodging, meals & limited
July 21-25	supplemental insurance
July 28-Aug. 1	

## Royal Ambassadors and Challengers SUMMER CAMP 1997

for more information, contact:  
Central Hills Baptist Retreat, P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723  
601/289-9730





# Pray this day for...

April 11-24, 1997

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

## Prayer is our work... Ministry is its rewards

It is now time to put the first things of God in first place. The first thing is this: long agonizing prayer --

A new madness of sorrowful, confessing prayer that will shake the heavens.

Whoever is truly hungry and thirsty to become a fruitful believer must turn his efforts to this kind of prayer.

This is our last hope.

(Poem by Michael Kantarjis in 'The Lonely God')

For Doug and Janet Watkins, Brazil, in language school studying Portuguese. For their children, Luke, Lydia, Jesse & Joanna studying in Brazilian schools in their new second language.

For Cooperative Program Day Emphasis (Stewardship) Pray that all Baptists will realize how great the CP is for supporting Southern Baptist institutions and mission work in America and around the world.

For State Bible Drills; FBC, Gulfport/FBC, Senatobia; 3-4:30 pm, (D&FM)

For State Bible Drills; FBC, Hattiesburg/FBC, Meridian; 3-4:30 pm (D&FM)

For State Bible Drills; FBC, McComb/FBC, Greenwood; 3-4:30 pm (D&FM)  
For Church Facilities Workshop; Park Place BC; Brandon; 8:30 am-3:15 pm, (Church Building Services)

For India. Bombay has reverted to using its former name, Mumbai (derived from the Hindu goddess, Mumbai Devi). Pray for the Lord to call out a church planting strategist to proclaim the one true God.

For Bangladesh. Satan will do anything to stop new, innovative work in their country. Pray for protection and unity in spirit and ministry as Baptist personnel continue to follow God's leadership.

For Nepal. New believers in Nepal are often the only Christian in their family. Pray that their transformed lives and faithful witness will bring their families to faith in Jesus Christ.

For State Bible Drills; FBC, Tupelo/FBC, Saltillo; 3-4:30 pm (D&FM)

For Church Staff Retreat; Ramada Inn, Tupelo, 1 pm, 24th-5 pm, 25th (SS)

For Women on Mission Retreat; Gulfshore Assembly; 4 pm, 11th-noon, 12th (WMU)

For State Bible Drills; FBC, Starkville/Calvary BC, Starkville (D&FM)  
For MBIB; Calvary BC, Jackson (Broadcast)  
For MAC; Ramada Inn Convention Center, Tupelo (WMU)

For Regional "Teaching With Vision" Conferences; Fairview BC, Columbus/Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian/Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 9 am-noon, (Bible Study Team)

For State Bible Drills; FBC, Clinton/Woodland Hills BC, Jackson (D&FM)  
For Regional "Teaching With Vision" Conferences; FBC, McComb/FBC, Hattiesburg/FBC, Gulfport, (Bible Study Team)



## JUNE

- 3-86 MR. JOEL MARTIN, Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA  
Parents: Tom & Cynthia, General Evangelism
- 3-86 MISS LAUREN MCCALL, P. O. Box 5864, Tanga, TANZANIA  
Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture
- 13-84 MR. ROB DENT, International Board, 190 Middle Road  
#18-01 Fortune Center, SINGAPORE  
Parents: Donald & Anne, Assoc. to the Area Coordinator
- 15-79 MR. JASON HENDRICKS, Apartado 1010-7050, Cartago, COSTA RICA  
Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism
- 16-92 MISS ELIZABETH LUPER, c/o Michael Edens  
P. O. Box 472, Maadi, Cairo, 11728, EGYPT  
Parents: Robert & Jamie, Business Management
- 18-83 MR. ROSS KYZAR, 105 Billy Byrd Drive, Clinton, MS 39056  
Parents: Russell & Melinda, Mission Strategy; RUSSIA
- 20-81 MISS DONNIS GREEN, Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA  
Parents: Algie & Emily, General Evangelism
- 23-77 MR. MICHAEL PANTER, William Carey campus  
Box 554, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Parents: Danny & Elizabeth, Assoc. to the Area Coordinator; EASTERN EUROPE
- 24-95 MISS MELODY WILLIAMS, Jl. Hegarmanah 77, Bandung 40141, INDONESIA  
Parents: Matthew & Shea, Church Starting
- 26-89 MR. WRAY BRASWELL, Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL  
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism
- 28-82 MISS ALLISON COX  
Platterstr. 174E, D-65193 Wiesbaden, GERMANY  
Parents: Larry & Cheryl, Assoc. to the Area Director
- 28-89 MISS CHARISSA FORTENBERRY  
P. O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA  
Parents: Robert & Margaret, General Evangelism
- 30-82 MR. KYLE MARTIN  
Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA  
Parents: Tom & Cynthia, General Evangelism

## 1997 STATE SINGLES RETREAT "Getting On Track"

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY • MAY 24 - 26

### Conference Highlights

#### Conference Preacher:

Ron Hill, Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex.  
11 years as minister with singles

#### Mini Concerts:

Renee S. Scheidt, China Grove, N. C. (three-time recording artist)  
Pam Bell, Bogalusa, La. (recording artist)  
Paul Stupka, Tupelo, Miss. (contemporary recording artist)

#### Surf Sounds:

Vicki Pilecki, Greenwood, with guitar by  
Wayne Pinkerton, Greenville

Seafood Banquet Ice Cream Fellowship T-Shirt

SUNDAY TRACK OPPORTUNITIES: New Orleans, Coastal Experiences, Canoeing, Ship Island, and much more!

#### COST

\$87.60 (Unit A - two in a room)  
\$81.30 (Unit C - four in a room)

#### SEND TO:

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

# HOUSE TOPS



# Mississippians expand Honduran church

The Honduras mission team from Woodland Hills Church, Jackson departed April 8 for an eight-day mission trip to the Central American country.

The 23-person team stayed at the old seminary property in Tegucigalpa that had been the home of Pat and Ruth Rogers, former volunteer coordinators for the Mississippi/Honduras Partnership that ended a few years ago.

The mission team constructed a fence around University Church in Tegucigalpa to protect the property from theft by squatters.

The team also bought \$600 worth of Bibles for University Church and missionaries in pioneer areas. The money had been raised by the Woodland Hills Church children's choirs.

The construction team built two Sunday School rooms on the existing building, and conducted Vacation Bible School and visitation in the afternoon.

Donnie South, pastor of Harrisville Church, Harrisville, preached evening evangelistic services on the basketball court of a neighborhood park.

After much prayer, God miraculously worked events so a clear title was issued and the property was acquired.

After the Wednesday evening prayer meeting during the mission trip, University Church pastor Gustavo Molina led a procession of church members and Mississippians on a candlelight procession to the new property for a dedication service.

On the last work day, the Woodland Hills Church team had to work into the night to finish the construction project in order to fulfill Molina's hope that services could be held that night in the facility.

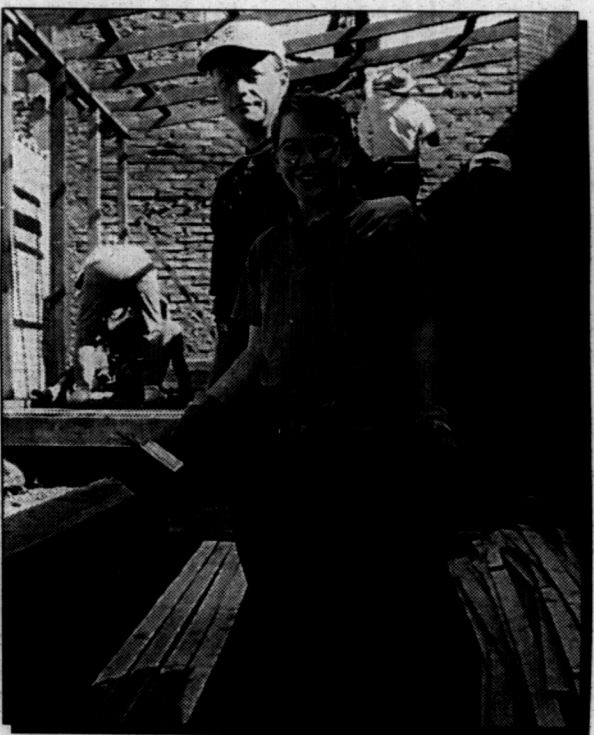
As the newly-installed lighting pierced the night for the first time, Hondurans who had gathered to watch the construction moved in to the new building to begin the evening service.

In the first use of the building — less than an hour after completion — decisions were made for Christ.

One woman wept as her husband accepted Christ and sought baptism.

"I have been praying for my husband to make this decision for four years," she said.

All mission team members returned from Honduras to Mississippi thankful and humbled to have been used by God in this special way.



**FATHER-SON MISSIONS** — Woodland Hills Church, Jackson pastor David Sills and son Christopher (both in foreground) prepare to bring another load of lumber to the carpenters who accompanied them to University Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras for an April 8-18 mission trip. The Woodland Hills team added two new Sunday School rooms to the church. (BR special photo)

## Partnership update

The building project at Korean Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, that was being planned by Prentiss Association, has been postponed until the first week of August due to weather and other delays that have hampered the project.

For more information, contact the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Project PM71997219: A 10-person construction team is needed for Redeemer Church in San Felix, to build Sunday School classrooms. Construction is cinder block, but a plumber and an elec-

trician are also needed along with about \$2,000 to help purchase materials. Requested dates are August 1-11.

Project PM71997220: An eight-member team is requested for New Covenant Mission in Tumeremo to erect cinder block worship and Sunday School space on a completed foundation. \$2,000-\$2,500 is needed to continue the project. Dates are August 1-11 or October 3-13.

For more information, contact the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Media critic to keynote MBIB banquet in Jackson

Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission in Atlanta and publisher of "Movieguide" magazine, will be the keynote speaker for the awards banquet at 7 p.m. on April 18 during the eleventh Annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting (MBIB) meeting at Calvary Church, Jackson.

Baehr is also host/producer of "Religion-wise: A Weekly Look at the News Through the Eyes of Religion," the oldest religious radio program in Atlanta.

His other radio program, "Movieguide: A Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment," is nationally syndicated through USA Radio Network.



Baehr

Baehr, 50, received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and his law degree from New York University School of Law.

Along with his annual "Report to the Entertainment Industry," Baehr selects the ten best family-friendly and the ten most morally-edifying mature audience films of the year.

He awards plaques of recognition at a Hollywood awards ceremony.

Armed with more than 50 years of statistical information, 20 years of research, and support from leaders in the entertainment industry, Baehr is using the media to change the media.

Advance reservations for the banquet are required. For more information on the banquet and

the April 18-19 MBIB meeting, contact the Broadcast Services Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## 'Vessels' to show in two more areas

Two additional groups have signed on to broadcast "Vessels" video magazine on local television cable systems.

♦ ACTS of Jackson will sponsor showings on Capital Cablevision channel 40 at 6:30 p.m. on April 13 and 14; and at 10:30 p.m. on April 18.

♦ First Church, New Albany will sponsor broadcasts on Galaxy channel 13 at 7:30 p.m. on April 13; 7 p.m. on April 15; and 10 a.m. on April 17.

For more information on obtaining a videotape and sponsoring telecasts on local cable systems, contact the Broadcast Services Department at the address in the above article.

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**Michael O'Brien**  
in concert at  
Grace Memorial Baptist Church  
Gulfport, MS  
**May 17, 1997**  
**7:30 p.m.**

Tickets: \$7.00  
reservations must be  
made before  
May 1, 1997

Reserve by phone:  
(GMBC) 863-5096  
Reserve via check by  
mail: Grace Memorial  
Baptist Church 2301 23rd  
Ave., Gulfport, MS 39501

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**922-2123**



# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**Mississippi College Music Department** will present several concerts and musical events as part of the "Arts in April" activities scheduled in Clinton. The Opera Workshop will present a "Magical Night of Music," April 11 and April 12 at 8:15 p.m. and a matinee on April 13 at 2 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students. The Mississippi College Jazz Ensemble is scheduled for

April 17 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Admission is free. The Concert Chorale and the Chamber Choir will perform "Americana: A Randall Thompson Festival," on April 24 at 8:15 p.m. in Provine Chapel. Admission is free. For additional information call (601) 925-3440.

**Mississippi College School of Business** and the Counseling and Career Development Center will sponsor the First Annual Career Day, April 22, in

A.E. Wood Coliseum. The event, scheduled from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., will give students an opportunity to meet informally with approximately 65 to 100 employers. For additional information concerning Career Day, call (601) 925-3214 or 925-3241.

**Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union** will be hosting a marriage seminar for its students April 19 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The seminar will be led by Ed and Sarah Walter. Ed Walter, director of the Doctor of

Ministry Program, is chairman of the Department of Religious Education at Mid-America Seminary. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

**William Carey College** will present the South Central Regional Music Therapy workshop April 18 and 19, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., in the Thomas Fine Arts Building on the Hattiesburg campus. The registration fee is \$30. For more information, contact Paul Cotten at (601) 582-6416.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Midway, Newton:** April 11-13; Fri. and Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Clyde Little, Bay Springs, evangelist; Todd Vance, Laurel, music; Wayne Miley, pastor.

**Farmhaven (Metro):** April 11-13; Fri., and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Gene Fant Sr., Hampton, Va., evangelist; Bill Clark, Jackson, music; Charles Gentry, pastor.

**Oak Grove, Smithdale:** April 11-13; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 1:15 p.m. service; David Fortenberry, Brookhaven, evangelist; Lamar McKenzie, Oak Grove Church, music; Cletus Moak, pastor.

**Short Creek (Yazoo):** April 12-14; 7 p.m. nightly; Gary Cockrell, Laurel, evangelist; Norris Ables, pastor.

**Palestine, Raymond:** April 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6

p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Fred Fudge, evangelist; Jerry File Sr., pastor.

**First, Winona:** April 13-16; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Dean Register, evangelist; Paul Koonce, music; Johnny Walker, pastor.

**Poplar Flat, Louisville:** April 13-16; 7 p.m. nightly; Bobby Waggoner, director of missions, Attala Association, evangelist; Ira Pollard, Starkville, music; James G. Pope, pastor.

**Bogue Chitto (Lincoln):** April 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Harvey Reaves, Aberdeen, evangelist; Mike and Angela Britt, Brookhaven, music; Bill Hudson, pastor.

**Trinity, Pearl:** April 13-16; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wade Chappell, Pearl, evangelist; Joe Wood, Florence, music; Kenny Goff, pastor.

**Parkway, Houston:** April 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Robertson, evangelist; Phil Carlisle, music; Thomas Tutor, interim pastor.

**Parkhill, Jackson:** April 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. weekdays; David McGuffee, Natchez, evangelist; Curtis Carter, Jackson, music; Tim Roaten, pastor.

**Fairhaven, Olive Branch:** April 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m.

and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Worley, Obion, Tenn., evangelist; Billy Shackelford, music; Jack Price, pastor.

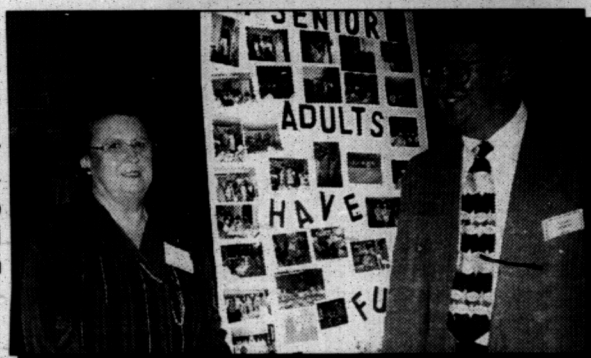
**Providence, Hattiesburg:** April 20-23; Sunday, 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Rick Cagle, assistant president, University of Mobile, evangelist; New Life, featuring Darryl Smith, Steve Carr, and Kevin Chambliss of Lumberton, music; Cliff Lazenby, pastor.

**Union, Brandon:** April 18-20; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Donnie Guy, Gulfport, evangelist; Robert Toney and Group, Gloster, music; Brent Bozeman, pastor.

**Damascus, Hazlehurst:** April 20-25; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 7 p.m. each evening; speakers each service will be John McBride, Sunday morning; Robert Netterville, Sunday evening; Daryl Oster, Monday; Clark Stewart, Tuesday; Larry Hart, Wednesday; Leroy J. Brewer Jr., Thursday; and Albert Parsons, Friday; Carl Thornton, music; David L. Patterson, pastor.

**First, Louise:** April 13-18; Sunday, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship, 5 p.m. discipleship; 6 p.m. worship; Monday-Friday, 7 p.m. worship. Jim Hill, evangelist, with the Hill Family. Charles McCollum, pastor.

**Johnnie Foster**, right, a member of First Church, Aberdeen, was one of the conference leaders at the Senior Retreat held recently at Ridgcrest Church, Madison. Pictured with Foster is Glenn Shows, consultant, Discipleship Training, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Bob and Virginia Rouillier**, (above) who began the work with mentally retarded children from all over Picayune, were recently honored at Goodyear Church, Picayune. "As their pastor when this work began in 1965, I have watched the class grow from two children to a present enrollment of 16. As many as 36 have attended Sunday School," said Arlis F. Grice, pastor. The Rouilliers have now retired from the class after 32 consecutive years of service.

## STAFF CHANGES

**First Church, Picayune**, has called **Kenneth E. Walters** as associate pastor effective Feb. 23. A native of Forest, Walters is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. His previously served for seven years as pastor at Southside Church, Aberdeen.



Walters

graduate from Blue Mountain College in May. He has served as associate pastor of West Ripley Church, Ripley.

**First Church, Oxford**, has called **Erik Fearing** as minister of music effective Feb. 16. A native of Dawson Springs, Ky., Fearing is a graduate of Campbellville College and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served in Lovington, N. M.

**Farmhaven Church, Madison County**, has called **Charles Gentry** as pastor effective March 23. Gentry previously served Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and Wynndale Church near Byram before retiring in October 1995.

**Falkner Church, Benton-Tippah Association**, has called **Stanley Huddleston** as pastor effective April 1. Huddleston, a native of Benton County, will

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RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

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**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Paintball-games! Other functions! Curry Creek Outdoors. (601) 722-9000.

**DALLAS SBC CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS:** Affordable hotel packages. Some/ walking distance.

Discount airfares! Alamo rentals start... \$23/day. **CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS** 1-800-972-8952.

**NEED A FUND RAISER?** Buy one get one coupon books, scratch-n-give cards, candy, or wrapping paper. Call Mike at CBI, 957-1019.

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## LIFE AND WORK

### Personal counselor

John 14:15-17, 23-26; 15:26-27

By Becky Briscoe Bennett

People often fear being left alone. Small children cry when parents leave them. Teenagers seem to travel in packs! As we get older we again fear being alone. God has provided the ultimate companion. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to his children. How often do we acknowledge the presence of this companion? How often do we utilize the power and the security of his companionship?

**Present Helper (14:15-17).** "If you love me, you will..." How we cringe when we hear those words. They often bring on a guilt trip causing us to engage in activities that are not

for our good. Often said in the heat of argument or anger, they are used as proof of relationship.

Yet these words are nothing to fear when they are the words of God. God already knows our heart. He will not ask anything of us that is not for our good. When God speaks these words to us, he knows our needs and knows we need help to live the life of Christ.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." This statement implies love preceding obedience. If we love God, we will want to keep his commandments. Keeping God's commandments is not a chore it



Bennett

is a blessing. Yet keeping God's commandments isn't always easy. Human nature gets in our way. Jesus knew his disciples would need help in order to live the life he had given them. Therefore, Jesus made a request to God. The request was for a helper. Jesus promises God will honor his request and send another helper.

**Perfect Teacher (14:23-26).** Keeping the commandments of God is a life-long learning process. Not only do we need a helper but we also need a teacher. Christians should continue to learn and learn and learn. The presence of this teacher is very real. His activity can be felt. The Spirit will convict of sin, lead in daily repentance, give assurance of salvation, admonish, comfort and teach us how to keep the word of God. What a blessing loving

God and keeping his commandments can be.

The Holy Spirit will teach a willing student everything needed to live the Christian life. God's love is not dependent upon our keeping his commandments, but our feeling his love in our lives is in direct proportion to our keeping his commandments. The Holy Spirit will make his home with us. What an intimate relationship! God the Father, and Son, in and through the Spirit, are always by the side of those who love their Lord. Keeping his commandments is visible evidence of our love.

**Powerful Witness (15:26-27).** God understands the difficulty of life. Jesus experienced hatred. The disciples experienced hatred. Therefore Jesus again promised he would send a helper so that the disciples would not be alone. That promise applies to us as well.

The Holy Spirit will remind us about the love and work of God the Father. He will remind us of the wonderful experiences we have with Jesus. Isn't that a comforting thought?

Because the Holy Spirit is our helper, our teacher, and our witness, we must also be a witness. God as called us to be a powerful witness because we are qualified to do so. We have experienced his love first hand. He has done his work in our lives. We have no hearsay evidence. It is from personal knowledge.

The Holy Spirit is a powerful witness. The disciples were powerful witnesses. How can we say we love God and refuse to be a powerful witness of what he has done for us? How can we refuse the help and encouragement of the Holy Spirit? "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Bennett is Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### God chooses to bless

Genesis 12:1-3; 17:1-9

By Greg McBride

The Biblical account of the call of Abram (12:1-3) marks a major division of the Old Testament story. The primeval history comes to an abrupt halt with the pronouncement of God's judgment on the tower of Babel. This final judgment on the sin of mankind is different from the earlier pronouncements. In it there is no evidence of God's grace coupled with his judgment. Rather, what follows the scattering of mankind is a cold recounting of the genealogy of Abram. It is at the conclusion of this genealogy that we find the call of Abram, and it is in this call that we find both the missing grace of Babel and the introduc-

tion of God's redemption of man from his scattered state.

**God's Intention to Bless (12:1-3).** God called Abram to leave his land, his people, and his father's house so that he might be made a blessing to the nations. To bless someone or something in Hebrew thought is to "do good" to them. With this promise God revealed to Abram his intention to do more than just bless his house. God's ultimate purpose was to "do good" to the nations through his house. This blessing to the nations came thousands of years later when, through Abram's seed, God himself entered the world as a baby. By



McBride

Abram's obedience God brought salvation to the world. Today God still wants to "bless" the world through men, and women who obediently lay down their lives, take up their crosses, and follow him. Are you allowing God to "do good" to the world through you?

**God's Covenant Commitment (17:1-6).** Sometime after leaving Haran, the lack of a son caused Abram to question God's promise (Gen. 15:2). As a means of assuring Abram, God made a covenant with him. We should note that this was not a contract between two equals. Rather, the account in chapter 15 portrays God voluntarily putting himself under an oath of allegiance to Abram and his seed. Thus, with this covenant, God committed himself to use Abram's descendants in his work in the world. This covenant by God

reveals two truths. First, God wants to work within our world. In other words, God is not aloof and detached from the circumstances which envelope mankind. Second, God chooses to enter personal relationships with men in order to accomplish his work in the world.

**God's Provision for His People (17:7-8).** God's covenant with Abram included a promise of future provision for his descendants. First, they would inherit the covenant itself. Then they would possess the land of promise. Finally Jehovah would be their God. God's intention was to do more than work in Abram's life. He intended to work also through generations of his descendants. Through obedience to the covenant conditions, Abram would have a far-reaching influence upon his family for good. His relationship with Jehovah and all of the promises associated with that relationship would in effect be passed down

through his descendants. This promise of provision should encourage us in our relationship with God. It tells us God desires to bless our children and grandchildren as a result of our relationship with him.

**God's Call for Obedience (17:9).** After conveying the promises of the Covenant to Abram, God then instructed him to "keep" the Covenant. He and his descendants were to "keep" the covenant by circumcising their males. Circumcision was a sign of the recognition and appropriation of God's offer of covenant relationship. It was the means by which Abram's family testified to the world of their relationship to Jehovah. Today we still testify to the world of our relationship to God through our obedience. We sing of this truth in the chorus, "They shall know we are Christians by our love." Do they?

McBride is pastor, Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Called to be faithful

Revelation 2:8-17

By Paul Blanchard

Someone once said that persecution should draw us closer to Jesus. How true this is! This passage teaches us that we are to be faithful to Jesus, even unto the end of life.

Life always brings difficult times our way. Our enemy, Satan, will make sure we have times of distress and persecution, temptation and trials. The Apostle Paul told his young friend Timothy, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12 KJV). If we seek to live a Christ-honoring life, the enemy will make sure we are persecuted and tempted.

Realizing the fact of trials, what must we do? This passage

in Revelation teaches us to be in constant prayer for each other, supporting one another as we face challenges in life. We must help each other in remaining faithful to Christ.

Two churches are discussed in this lesson; Smyrna and Pergamum. Smyrna was commended by Jesus for their perseverance during persecution. Our Lord challenged them to be faithful unto death and promised that they would never taste the second death.

Pergamum was greeted by our Lord and commended for their faithfulness in persecution. They were, however, warned about the sin of idolatry and immorality. Our Lord



Blanchard

challenged them to repent and promised acceptance into God's eternal kingdom.

How do these two churches relate to our lives? The greeting to the church at Smyrna should challenge us to be faithful in times of trouble or tribulation.

Smyrna, a large city with a population of 250,000, was the center of Emperor worship. This worship consisted of burning incense and calling Caesar lord. Faithful Christians refused to worship Caesar and thus endured intense suffering, losing their jobs, possessions, and earthly security.

The word tribulation refers to intense, horrible suffering rather than the ordinary trials of life. This persecution — which came from the Jewish population as well the Romans — made for terrible suffering. The Jewish troublemakers claimed to be of the synagogue

of God. In reality they were of the synagogue of Satan. Jesus tells his followers to be faithful unto death. This does not mean a natural death after a long and prosperous life. It means in the very face of death.

Pergamum was the capitol of the Roman province and the center of emperor worship. The city had a great library, second only to Alexandria. There was also a great medical center.

The city of Pergamum attracted the followers of many pagan idols. One such group were followers of the doctrine of Balaam. We learn of Balaam's counsel in Numbers 22-24; 31:16. Balaam is derived from "Baal" meaning to conquer, and "aam" meaning people. Balaam's doctrine is characterized by:

- 1) The wisdom of this world.
- 2) The worship of this world.
- 3) The wickedness of this world.

Two great sins of this doctrine were denying the head-

ship of Jesus and defiling the members of the body.

Being a pagan society, the influence of Pergamum was trying to bring the Christians to the point of conforming to pagan ways. Jesus warned Pergamum to repent of sin. Failure to repent would result in Jesus passing judgment on them. Our culture tempts Christians to conform to the ways of pagan society. We must be on guard to resist the onslaught of Satan and his followers. Some believers in every age lose their lives for Jesus sake. This was true in the time of Pergamum and it is true today.

Our Lord challenges us to repent of known sin in our lives, and he also leads us to be faithful, even in times of trouble, persecution, and heartache. We have to remember that Jesus is the Lord of Lords and we can overcome through Him!

Blanchard is Director of Missions, Winston Association.



## You can find the missing PEACE

The Prince of Peace extends a wonderful invitation to you.



### 1. His love gives us peace. This is his promise:

"Perfect love casts out fear."

(1 John 4:18) When we ask Christ into our lives, his love chases away fear.

### 2. His promise of eternal life gives us peace.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23) God provides eternal life through the death and resurrection of his Son.

### 3. His promise to walk with us through life gives us peace.

Jesus said, "In me you may have peace. In this world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Jesus extends his promise of peace to us, but we must respond by accepting him as the missing piece in our lives.

You can make that commitment today by, (1) admitting you need God, (2) confessing your sins to him, and (3) by faith, receiving Christ as Lord.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

# Successful businessman takes leap of faith

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — Bill Nix's 1993 commute from home to work was only 15 minutes, "but the distance between my office and my home was worlds apart."

An active Christian who also was chief operating officer of a mortgage company, Nix acknowledged he was "experiencing God at home and at work, but every Monday I'd get in my car to go back into bondage. I was living in Canaan, but working in Egypt."

A trip to a Boulder, Colo., Promise Keepers gathering of 50,000 men changed the direction of Nix's life.

He heard Christian author and radio personality James Dobson tell the men, "When you come to the end of your life, the only thing that will matter will be who you loved, who loved you, and what you did in service for your Creator."

A hard-driving, successful mortgage banker who had modeled his career after icons such as Ivan Boesky and Charles Keating — icons whose business practices landed them in prison — Nix knew he had to make some big changes in the life he was leading in his workplace.

"When I got in touch with God about my work, he supernaturally removed the desire for me to do business the world's way," he said.

Nix, now president of Faith at Work based in Montgomery, Ala., details his journey to becoming an activist for bringing

Christ to the workplace in his first book, "Transforming Your Workplace for Christ," released April 1 by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Too many Christians segregate God from a large part of their lives, Nix believes.

"Many Christians have bought into the myth that to succeed in the real world you have to do business the way the world does it," he said.

"They are active in church as leaders, but on Monday they become monsters in the workplace."

Nix sought to make a difference by developing an employee training program (seminar and workbook) on character, based on the life of Christ.

During an intensive study of the four gospels of the New Testament, he "wrote down every trait I could find of Christ."

He consolidated the list to these top 10:

- ◆ love
- ◆ encouragement
- ◆ forgiveness
- ◆ balance
- ◆ accountability
- ◆ excellence
- ◆ communication
- ◆ promise keeping
- ◆ stewardship
- ◆ integrity.

Through his training program, Nix sought to teach the life of Christ "in a provocative but appropriate way."

"If you go into the typical workplace, pull your Bible

out, and start preaching, people's eyes are going to glaze over," Nix said.

Instead, he wrote his training program as a "sharing from my heart," based in Scripture but actually quoting few verses.

"What I wanted to do was plant a seed and let God work," he said.

He quickly saw evidence that God was touching lives through the material.

"All of a sudden a stream of people started coming to my office wanting to talk with me," Nix said.

They wanted to know more about the program.

As he opened his Bible and showed them the traits of Jesus, he had many opportunities to witness.

He also saw changes in people's lives.

"Their progress became like test-driving Christianity. The more they learned, the deeper they wanted to go. It was very affirming to see that happen. I had prayed it would," Nix said.

"I began to see my co-workers and my workplace differently when I accepted God's call to be a workplace prophet," Nix writes in his book.

As they worked through the character program, he saw people grapple with common but difficult workplace issues such as how to get along with a difficult boss.

Through the study, Nix said, attitudes change from "How am I going to put up with this guy?" to "How am I going to minister to him?"

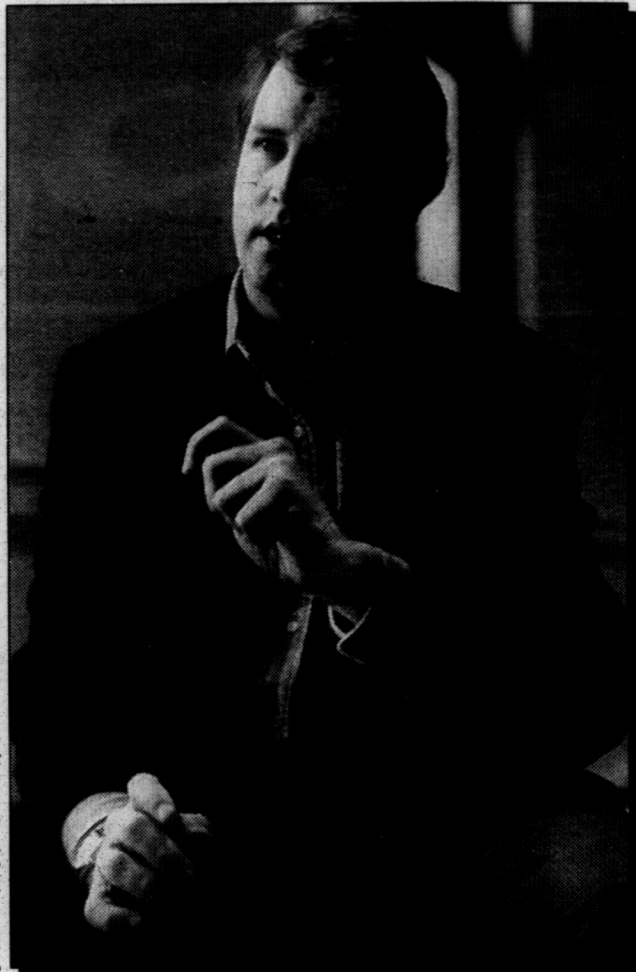
The question for which Nix personally sought an answer was, "Why would God put me in the secular workplace only to give me a heart for ministry?"

As word of the training program spread, Nix began to teach his course in other companies and also to lead seminars in churches.

After completing his book manuscript in late 1995 and with his wife Terri's encouragement, he left the secular workplace to start Faith at Work Ministries.

"She told me, 'You know what God wants you to do. Go do it.' The decision was scary, but it was real easy to make," said Nix, who, at 37, has embarked on a faith journey.

The faith journey is one he feels compelled to make.



Bill Nix

"You have seen the self-centeredness of our workplace worlds," he writes in his book's final chapter.

"Many of us work today to create the cash for self-indulgence, the wherewithal for self-reliance, and the position for self-image.

"Our world emphasizes self, but such self-centeredness is hostile to the cause of Christ," Nix points out.

"Transforming Your Workplace for Christ" is available at Baptist Book Stores and Christian bookstores.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

### From my mailbag:

I have recently had the worst experience of my life. I was harassed at work, and management was unable to control the situation. I went to a counselor, a therapist, and two psychiatrists. None helped, but let me share what did help.

I read "When God Doesn't Make Sense," by James Dobson. In "The Big Book of Health Tips," I read this in the chapter on emotional health:

- ◆ Identify and list the problem(s).
- ◆ List all possible solutions, no matter how ridiculous they may seem.
- ◆ Choose the solution that seems best.
- ◆ Take action.
- ◆ Re-evaluate. How are things going? Is the problem solved? If not, what actions now?

◆ Repeat the last two steps until the problem is solved.

We have been told that a sympathetic ear is good for us, but that is not so. Each time I talked with a friend about my problem, I felt worse.

I know I will continue to struggle with this incident, but I pray daily for help to remove my fear. If what I have said helps one person, it will be worth the effort I took to write.

Thank you for your thoughts, dear friend. The exciting part of your story is that you kept searching until you found something that works for you. Counseling may not always be the answer to every situation. Reading and praying are indeed excellent means of seeking the help we need. Keep up the good work!

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## Bibliocipher

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C QCLZ XA ZMX AU XEZ  
XGZZ AU NCUZ, RECJE CI  
CF XEZ KCPX AU XEZ  
WMGMPCIZ AU QAP.

GZLZNMXCAF XRA: IZLZF

Clue: P equals D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Eight One.